



## Quick Links

[Early Learning Coalition](#)

[VPK](#)

[Department of Economic Opportunity](#)



## Upcoming Board and Committee Meetings

### Governance & Bylaws

Monday, August 26  
8:30 a.m.  
Conference Call

### Program & Strategy

Tuesday, August 27  
3:30 p.m.  
ELC Board Room

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# ELC News Alert

Issue 8  
August/September 2013

## President's Message



Dear Friends,

There is no reason your child, the children in your program or any child in Florida should be without health insurance. Through Florida KidCare, the state of Florida offers health insurance for children from birth through age 18.

To qualify for premium assistance, a child must:

- Be under age 19
- Be uninsured
- Meet income eligibility requirements
- Be a U.S. citizen or qualified non-citizen
- Not be eligible for Medicaid
- Not be in a public institution

Coverage could be free or cost families a nominal fee, depending on the household size and family income.

Our early care and education programs are natural sites to help families enroll in the program. Please help spread the word about Florida KidCare. Healthy children are better able to thrive, learn and succeed in life.

To learn more about Florida KidCare, visit <http://www.floridakidcare.org/> today.

Sincerely,

Evelio C. Torres  
President & CEO

### Finance

Wednesday, August  
28  
8:30 a.m.  
ELC Board Room

### Board

Monday, September 9  
8 a.m.  
United Way of  
Miami-Dade

For a complete list  
of upcoming  
Coalition meetings  
and events,  
please visit our  
website at  
[www.elcmdm.org](http://www.elcmdm.org).

## Contact Us

### Miami-Dade

2555 Ponce de Leon  
Blvd., Suite 500  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
305-646-7220

### Monroe

1111 12th St., Suite  
206  
Key West, FL 33040  
305-296-5557

[info@elcmdm.org](mailto:info@elcmdm.org)

Join Our Mailing List!

## Programs Information

### Join Our Healthy Eating and Exercise Initiative Aimed at Combating Childhood Obesity

Did you know 1 in 5 children are overweight or obese by age 6? Join the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Nemours and the Early Learning Coalition and become a part of a national effort to reduce childhood obesity in early care and education programs. Programs participating in the National Early Care and Education Learning Collaborative will receive:

- \$500 stipend per program
- CEU credits
- In-service hours
- Technical assistance
- Resources & toolkits

For more information, please contact South Florida Project Coordinator Magalie Thomas at [maggie.thomas@nemours.org](mailto:maggie.thomas@nemours.org) or 786-400-8737.

### Train the Trainer Series Begins for Nemours Project

The first ELC 'train the trainer' session for the National Early Care and Education Learning Collaborative brought participants together from three counties. Seventeen prospective trainers spent August 8-9 learning the fine art of peer facilitation, strategies for motivating adults to manage change and the mechanics of the Nemours 'Let's Move' Child Care curriculum.



Trainers participated in a two-day Train-the-Trainer series.

The Cuban American National Council in Little Havana kindly provided training space for this exciting two-day session.

### VPK Payment Rate Schedule

The Office of Early Learning has released the Payment Rate Schedule for the 2013-2014 School Year. The rates for Miami-Dade and Monroe are as follows:

#### Miami-Dade

- Base Student Allocation: \$2,383.00

- X DCD: 1.0123
- Provider Payment: \$2,412.31
- Hourly Rate: \$4.46

#### **Monroe County**

- Base Student Allocation: \$2,383.00
- X DCD: 1.0271
- Provider Payment: \$2,447.58
- Hourly Rate: \$4.53

#### **Information about the VPK Assessment**

All VPK programs are mandated to assess all children participating in VPK using the VPK Assessment and entering the scores online.

The Assessment will be conducted three 3 times:

- **Assessment Period 1 (AP1)** begins the week of September 9, 2013. Assessments must be completed and scores entered online by September 30, 2013.
- **Assessment Period 2 (AP2)** begins the week of January 13, 2014. Assessments must be completed and scores entered online by January 31, 2014.
- **Assessment Period 3 (AP3)** begins three weeks before the close of your program. Assessments must be completed and scores entered online by June 30, 2014.

If you were a VPK provider last year, you should have received AP1, AP2 and AP3 scoring booklets for each VPK classroom, one 4th Edition Teacher's Manual and one Training DVD for each classroom.

If you are a brand new provider, you should have received a complete VPK Assessment Kit for each classroom. The kit includes the VPK Assessment Test Booklet, Assessment Period (AP) Scoring Booklets for AP1, AP2 and AP3. Each set includes 20 booklets, a 4th Edition Teacher's Manual, one Training DVD and one Accurate Sounds Production DVD.

If you have not received your supplies, please email Kerry Allen at [kallen@elcmdm.org](mailto:kallen@elcmdm.org). Include the name of your school, mailing address (no P.O. boxes), telephone number, director's name and number of VPK classrooms. Kerry will forward the information to the Office of Early Learning for processing. Be advised the supplies are being mailed from the publisher, Drummond Press, and not the State of Florida.

Consult your Teacher's Manual for instructions on using the Online Reporting System. The system asks for your school's identification number, which is assigned to you by the Florida Office of Early Learning. If you have misplaced your number or are new to the VPK program, please call **1-866-447-1159** for assistance.

## **Important Announcements**

### **Governor Scott Signs Early Learning Bill in Miami**

On August 19, Governor Rick Scott participated in a ceremonial signing of House Bill 7165 that restructures the state's early learning system. The Governor held the ceremonial bill signing at the United Way Center for Excellence in Early Education in Miami. The Governor was joined by Miami-Dade's early learning leaders and advocates.



Governor Scott signs HB7165 surrounded by early learning leaders and children from the United Way Center for Excellence in Early Education.

Governor Scott said, "This bill will prioritize early learning education by moving many of its functions into the Department of Education, which will increase accountability and transparency for early learning programs."



Governor Scott toured the ELC's Central Service Center, where families are seen to determine eligibility for our programs. Pictured left to right: Adrian Alfonso, ELC Board Chair; Senator Rudy Garcia and son; Governor Rick Scott; Evelio Torres, ELC CEO; Shan Goff, Executive Director of the Office of Early Learning.

The ceremony included a tour of the Early Learning Coalition's new Central Service Center. Governor Scott met staff and spent a few minutes with families waiting to receive eligibility information.

To read the full news release, please visit <http://www.flgov.com>.

### Governor Recognizes Teachers from Liberty Academy

On August 19, Governor Rick Scott honored two teachers from Liberty Academy for their exemplary work in early childhood education in our community.



Pictured from left to right: Sarah Brazier, Director of Liberty Academy; Nancy Richardson, teacher; Pam Hollingsworth, ELC; Elouse Cherubin.

Elouse Cherubin is the Lead Teacher for the 3-year-old classroom who uses her creativity to keep the children engaged and challenged. Nancy Richardson is the Lead Teacher for the 1-year-old classroom who makes the class a home away from home for her students.

We congratulate both teachers on the wonderful work they are doing. Thank you for being ongoing partners in bettering our children's futures and a model center for our community.

### Improvements to Early Learning System with HB7165

During the 2013 session, the Florida Legislature passed important early learning legislation. Designed to improve quality and bring more accountability and transparency to the state's early learning programs, the law moved the Office of Early Learning (OEL) into the Department of Education and consolidated duties and responsibilities for VPK within OEL.

Shan Goff, Executive Director of the Florida Office of Early Learning, provides regular updates on the new legislation and how it is affecting early learning programs. Questions about HB7165 can be sent to [HB7165@oel.myflorida.com](mailto:HB7165@oel.myflorida.com). Answers to many of the questions can be found on the [OEL website](#).

House Bill 7165 can be found [here](#).

### Three Private Sector Members Appointed to Board of Directors

On July 25, Governor Rick Scott announced the appointments of Adrian Alfonso, Philip "Flip" Gassman, and Gordon "Eric" Knowles to the Board of Directors of the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe.

Alfonso, 33, of Miami, is a partner with Perez-Abreu, Aguerrebere, Sueiro and Torres, PL. He succeeds Octavio Verdeja and is appointed as chair for a term beginning July 25, 2013, and ending April 30, 2017.

Gassman, 48, of Miami, is the executive vice president and managing director of professional and executive banking for Marquis Bank. He fills a vacant seat and is appointed for a term beginning July 25, 2013, and ending April 30, 2015.

Knowles, 57, of Fort Lauderdale, is semi-retired and was previously senior director of government affairs for the Miami Dolphins. He fills a vacant seat and is appointed for a term beginning July 25, 2013, and ending April 30, 2016.

To contact any of these board members, please email [board@elcmdm.org](mailto:board@elcmdm.org).

#### Grant Project Ei-Ei-O! Funded



## Miami Dade College SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

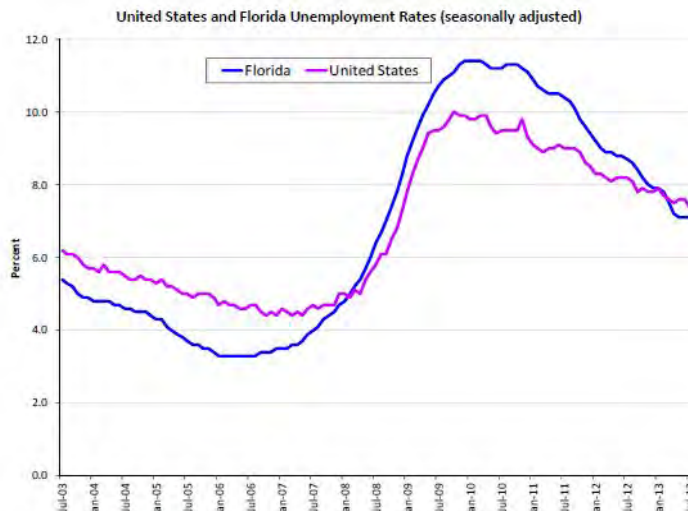
Miami Dade College School of Education has been awarded almost \$1 million to support their grant proposal for Project Early Identification-Early Intervention Opportunity (Ei-Ei-O)! This grant will fund the personnel preparation of 80 early childhood students over the next 5 years to become Bachelor degree certified teachers with certifications from birth through grade 3, and state endorsement in Reading, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and Prekindergarten Disabilities remediation.

Congratulations, MDC, on another job well done!

#### Florida Releases Its Employment Figures for July

Florida's seasonally adjusted unemployment remained unchanged at 7.1 percent in July 2013. The state's May, June and July rates were the lowest since September 2008 when it was 7.0 percent. There were 665,000 jobless Floridians out of a labor force of 9,404,000. The U.S. July unemployment rate was 7.4 percent. Florida's unemployment rate was 0.3 percentage points lower than the U.S. rate and was below the national rate for the fifth consecutive month.

In July 2013, Monroe County (4.2 percent) had the state's lowest unemployment rate. The unemployment rate for Miami-Dade County was 8.4 percent.



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program, in cooperation with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Labor Market Statistics.

For more information, visit the Department of Economic Opportunity's [website](#).

## Transition News and Updates

### New e-Fax System In Place

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe has transitioned to a new e-Fax system. This will help us ensure the receipt of all information sent to us by parents/caregivers and providers. Please ensure your information is sent to the correct department in order for us to serve you in the most efficient manner.

Following is a list of new ELC fax numbers:

- Miami-Dade Main Fax: **786-433-3227**
- School Readiness and VPK Eligibility, Redeterminations, VPK COEs: **786-433-3223**
- Provider Certification and Contracts for School Readiness and VPK: **305-443-9107**
- Provider Payments, Attendance and Banking: **786-433-3237**
- Monroe Main Fax: **305-296-5588**

If you have any questions, please contact us at [info@elcmdm.org](mailto:info@elcmdm.org).

### Reimbursement Reports Now on Provider Portal

The July reimbursement reports have been added to the provider portal. To access your report, please follow the instructions below:

- Log in to the Provider Portal
- Select any of the Provider Agreement buttons
- Select the Document Library to the right
- Go to Banking Information
- Look for the latest Reimbursement Reports (SR/VPK)

If you have any questions, please email us at [info@elcmdm.org](mailto:info@elcmdm.org).

### Confidentiality Reminder

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe would like remind all our partners about the sensitivity of the information we deal with on a daily basis. For security purposes, we ask that providers and parents/caregivers do not email any sensitive information regarding a child. This includes Social Security numbers, DOB, and any other identifying information. This is ultimately to protect the children we serve.

### Electronic Payments Take Effect at the ELC

If you have not previously selected Direct Deposit, please be aware that the Early Learning Coalition will no longer issue physical checks for child care reimbursements effective **September 1, 2013**. We must receive electronic banking information by **August 31, 2013**.

In Miami-Dade and Monroe counties, 87 percent of providers are already receiving their payments through direct deposit. There are many benefits to direct deposit,

including security, convenience, reliability, speediness and cost savings.

It's easy to get started. Simply follow the instructions below:

- Complete the attached [Payment Application](#) and mark "New"
- Include a copy of a voided check
- Complete the [W-9 Form](#)
- Fax the Payment Application, W-9, and a copy of a voided check to the ELC Finance Department at 786-433-3237

The money and time saved by the Early Learning Coalition through a direct deposit payment system is reinvested back into childcare slots.

If you need to make a change in your banking information:

- Complete the attached [Payment Application](#) and mark "Change"
- Fax application to 786-433-3237
- Include a copy of a voided check

In addition, effective **September 1**, the ELC will only be accepting attendance rosters via the ELC Provider Portal. This means we will no longer accept them via email, fax or eFax.

If you have any questions, please contact the Finance Department.

**Deadline Reminders:**

- **August 31:** ELC must receive your banking information
- **September 1:** ELC will no longer issue checks for child care reimbursements
- **September 1:** ELC will only accept rosters on ELC Provider Portal

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## ELC Team Member Spotlight



Christopher "Chris" Armely joined the ELC Team on April 23, 2012. In his current position as the Human Resources Administrative Assistant, Chris is responsible for assisting the Director of Human Resources in daily tasks as well as assisting ELC employees with their HR needs. Before his role in HR, Chris was a part-time date entry employee for the VPK and School Readiness programs.

His proudest moment at the organization has been participating in the hiring of all the new employees. Chris particularly enjoys knowing he can support any employee with whatever it is they need to continue enjoying their time at the ELC.

While away from the office, Chris enjoys hanging out with his family and friends, boating, jet skiing and riding his motorcycle. Chris is also an active member of the United States Air Force Reserve.

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## Monroe County News

Customers Seen By Appointment



Our new service delivery system has resulted in efficiencies that have generated savings and allowed us to eliminate the School Readiness waiting list in Monroe county.

To help ensure the best customer service and the shortest wait times possible when a family's eligibility for the program is being determined, our Florida Keys service centers serve families by appointment. Walk-ins are discouraged because Eligibility Specialists are serving families who have appointments and processing redeterminations to ensure there is no interruption in service.

If parents need to report changes (address, job, etc.) they should call the Monroe Main Office at 305-296-5557. In many instances, they can pick up the required paperwork (or have it emailed to them) and then call for an appointment when the paperwork is complete.

Thank you for your assistance in ensuring that we maintain a steady customer flow.

### Transfer Policy

All customers requesting a transfer to another provider must have a [Transfer Request Form](#) completed by the current provider before taking it to the new provider. The current provider must sign off that the customer is current with parent fees before a transfer can be approved.

Providers are asked to remind all parents of school age children who will need to transfer back to the public school that the Transfer Request Form must be completed and returned to their closest Keys service center. Without a fully completed form, a transfer cannot be approved and provider payment may not be authorized.

The ELC Monroe Transfer Form can be found [here](#).

### Save the Date

#### **Monroe County Advisory Committee Meeting**

Friday, September 13, 1 p.m.

Monroe County School District Board Room, 241 Trumbo Road, Key West

Please join ELC board members, CEO Evelio Torres, ELC staff and our community partners as we discuss important state and local information of interest and concern to our early care and education provider community. An update will be provided on the transition of services that became effective July 1. The agenda with the conference call information will be distributed shortly.

### Provider On-Line Attendance Reporting

Monroe providers will be trained on the online attendance reporting system. This will eliminate the need for paper attendance rosters and will expedite the reimbursement process. The dates/times/locations of the sessions are TBD.

### VPK Standards Training

Fourteen VPK teachers attended training in Key West on July 27. Additional VPK trainings will be scheduled Keys-wide after the new school year begins.

### ASQ Update

The ASQ-3 Online reporting system will be making changes to the way all dates are listed in the system. Instead of the Standard United States format of MM/DD/YYYY, you will now use the International Standard format written as YYYY-MM-DD.

Please contact Inclusion/Assessment Specialist Gerella Kenniston at 305-296-5557 with any questions.

### Child Passenger Safety Certification Training

The Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition is offering a FREE Child Passenger Safety certification training on August 26-29 that is open to anyone in Monroe County. Pre-registration is required. For more information, contact [fkhsc@yahoo.com](mailto:fkhsc@yahoo.com) or call 305-293-8424.

## Quality Counts

### Join the Quality Counts Team for a QC 2.0 Info Session

We are continuing to host Quality Counts 2.0 sessions through the Fall. Upcoming dates are listed below. Please join us as we discuss exciting changes to the Quality Counts model. Our discussions will include the new [Quality Counts 2.0 Standards](#) and [Supplemental Guidelines to Quality Improvement](#).

#### Upcoming Dates:

August 28, 2013	Early Learning Coalition Meeting Room B 2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd., 5th Floor Coral Gables, FL 33134	11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. <i>en Español</i> 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. <i>in English</i>
September 5, 2013	Miami Dade County Public Library North Dade Regional 2455 NW 183rd Street Miami, Florida 33056	11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. <i>in English</i> 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. <i>en Español</i>
September 10, 2013	Miami Dade County Public Library South Dade Regional 10750 SW 211th Street Miami, Florida 33189	1:00 - 2:00 p.m. <i>en Español</i> 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. <i>in English</i>

### Free Resources Available to Programs in Miami-Dade Through Shared Resources Florida

Shared Resources is a free, membership-based website that offers an array of resources and tools for program directors, owners, and teachers to enhance the business and educational environment of centers and family child care homes.

#### Program Benefits:

- Cost savings on child products, books, office supplies and more
- Quick links to DCF Regulations
- Helpful templates
- Free printable posters
- Community message boards

#### Classroom / Teacher Benefits:

- Free online training for teachers
- Literacy activity ideas
- Physical activity ideas and videos
- Parent handouts

- Teacher resources

To access the site, visit [www.sharedresourcesfl.org](http://www.sharedresourcesfl.org).

- Click on "Interested in becoming a member?" and enter requested information.
- A login and temporary password will be emailed within two business days.

Shared Resources Florida is brought to you through the collaboration of the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Early Childhood Initiative Foundation, and Quality Counts in partnership with The Children's Trust.

Early education. Lifelong success.

